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**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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## What you can do

- support Animal Aid's Chickens' Lib campaign
- boycott poultry products
- write to your local MP  
(House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA)  
and your local newspaper and explain your concerns about poultry farming and slaughter

the  
**Facts**

**Poultry Farming**

I enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
in support of your campaign

I wish to become a member of  
Animal Aid and enclose a cheque  
for £ \_\_\_\_\_

(Annual subscription £7 waged £5 unwaged £4 youth)

Please send me more leaflets.  
(£1.50 per 100, £6 per 500)

Please send me further info (sae  
please).

Please make cheques payable to *Animal Aid*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: *The Chickens' Lib Campaign,  
Animal Aid, 7 Castle Street, Tonbridge,  
Kent, TN9 1BH. Tel: (0732) 364546.*

09/02

Leaflet produced in association with The National Society Against Factory Farming



## battery hens

85% of all UK laying hens are in battery cages. Battery hens crouch, day in, day out, on sloping wire, each with **less floor space than this sheet of paper.**

Millions will travel to slaughter, suffering the agony of bones made brittle by a year's incarceration – bones that snap when catchers drag them from their cages.

The battery hen's only glimpse of the outside world is the journey to a brutal slaughter.

"Farm Fresh" and similar phrases can mean only one thing - the cruelty of battery egg production.

## broiler chickens

Meat type chickens (broilers) are bred for rapid weight gain. Most UK chickens are reared intensively and fed growth promoting antibiotics. Kept in their **thousands in dimly-lit windowless sheds**, their suffering is a direct result of the poultry industry's quest for quick profits.

Chickens can live for 6-7 years, but today's birds are slaughtered when 6-7 weeks old, millions with legs already too weak to support the unnatural weight. Approximately 45 million will die in the sheds, picked out as 'deads' or left to rot. Live birds peck at the carcasses.



Around two million will die annually on the journey to processing plants. Those that survive will be slaughtered by crude methods. It is estimated that every day in the UK thousands of chickens are conscious as their throats are cut.

## turkeys

Wild turkeys fly at 50 mph and roost in treetops. Many factory farmed turkeys (especially males) can barely walk – the result of genetic selection for meaty birds. Cramped in their thousands into huge windowless sheds, lights are dimmed to discourage stress-related aggression. Despite low lighting eye pecking is common, causing acute pain and sometimes blindness. Turkeys reared in 'pole barns', with natural daylight, are generally **debeaked with red-hot blades** to minimise the damage they can inflict on each other.

The modern male (stag) turkey is too broad-breasted and heavy to mate naturally. All turkey breeding relies on artificial insemination, an

obscene practice causing repeated stress and suffering to females and males alike. Many male breeding birds develop painfully diseased hip joints. Weighing as much as an 8-9 year old child, they are



# 2 Million Deaths Every Day

hung in shackles for up to six minutes, before being slaughtered.

Most turkeys are slaughtered by the time they are six months old – their natural life-span is around ten years. The killing is violent. Millions receive accidental shocks, when wings trail into the electrically charged water bath. Some are not fully

stunned when their necks are cut. Annually in the UK, thirty to forty thousand birds enter the scalding tank alive.

## ducks

Ducks are waterfowl. Yet millions are now reared like broilers, several thousand to a shed. Shallow troughs or 'nipple' drinkers (dispensing water in drops) supply enough water to keep them alive. Commercially-bred ducks, released from intensive conditions, spend most of their time in the water, fulfilling age-old behavioural patterns. The vast majority of ducks sold for meat have been **deprived of their greatest need – water** – and slaughtered at 7-8 weeks. A duck's potential life-span is twenty years.

Ducks are slaughtered like chickens and turkeys – hung upside down in metal shackles, then killed by a combination of electrical stunning and neck cutting.